

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



A Quarterly News Magazine of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

Spring 2006



A Message From President Marvin Rich

Marvin Rich serves out his term as President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society during the 27th Annual Gathering. See President's Message page 6.

Register Today!

The Texas Jewish Historical Society's

27th Annual Gathering

Friday - Sunday

April 28 - 30, 2006

Houston, Texas

The Marriott Hotel West Loop
Near the Galleria at Loop 610 @ San Felipe

\$89 night (plus tax)

See pages 16-19 for details!

**Registration Form • 27th Annual Gathering Schedule
Proposed Slate of Officers & Board of Directors
Proposed By-laws Changes**

Hotel Reservation Deadline - Monday, April 10th
Meeting Registration due Monday, April 16th

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marvin Rich



Texas Jewish Historical Society President Marvin Rich completes his two-year term Sunday, April 30, 2006,

during the 27th Annual General Meeting. The Texas Jewish Historical Society would like to thank Marvin for all his hard work and dedication, and extends a special thank you to Marvin's wife, Shirley, for her tremendous support.

I guess you can call this my "Swan Song," because it is my final President's Message to my friends – the members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Since presenting the Past President's Pin to Charles Hart in San Antonio at our 25th Annual Gathering in April, 2004, it has been a very rewarding two years. I will not list all our events and accomplishments – there are many. However, a few highlights have occurred that I would like to mention. Of course, our 25th and 26th Annual Gatherings in San Antonio and in Austin were unforgettable.

Last April's Symposium of Texas Jewish History was the preview and

the beginning of our Society's most ambitious project, the compilation and production of the book project, "Lone Stars of David, The Jews of Texas." Helen Wilk's two-year planning resulted in a day of intellectual stimulation, and brought our Society to the attention and admiration of all the Texas Historical community.

Hollace Weiner's and Ken Roseman's editorial efforts have created a manuscript which has been sent to the University Press of New England where it will be published as part of Jonathan Sarna's series of Jews in the United States.

We have enjoyed stimulating and fun open board meetings around the state, because we are always happy to see our Texas Jewish Historical Society family. If you have not attended a TJHS Quarterly Weekend, I encourage you to do so. Incoming president, Vickie Vogel has already laid the groundwork for the summer and fall meetings. You won't want to miss them!

I want to thank all the members who helped make the past two years so successful. Each officer and Board member helped in this successful endeavor. I could not have accomplished this without the

guidance and experience of past-president Charles Hart who chaired the Nominating Committee. I also learned and benefited from Helen Wilk, who I previously mentioned, and Lonnie Schooler who donated pro-bono legal advice on several occasions.

I particularly want to thank our treasurer, Ben Pfeffer who has wisely kept us fiscally sound and responsible.

Special thanks must go to Susan Elsner Furman who produced our Quarterly News Magazine in spite of extremely tragic circumstances and personal challenges. Incidentally, we are proud our Newsletter is now being made available nationally through EBSCO Publishing Co. subscription services.

The most important person who kept things in check and made certain I did my job was my best friend and bride of 50 years, Shirley. Every night before we went to sleep she asked me, "What did you do for the Texas Jewish Historical Society today, and what are you going to do tomorrow?"

I am confident our fine organization will move forward under the guidance of Vickie Vogel and all board members. Please contact Vickie to offer your support and help the TJHS continue to move forward preserving Texas Jewish History.

Sincerely,



Marvin Rich
President

Texas Jewish Civil War Vets, cont. from page 5

Stern, Jacob CSA Quartermaster for Area, Jefferson, Texas
Wagner, Louis Bexar Guards 30th Texas Bde Texas State Troops
Weil, Solomon Navarro City 16th Brigade Texas State Troops
Weltman, James first lieutenant, Co. C, 12th Texas Confederate
Infantry Regiment
Wertheimer, Abraham, Bee County Home Guards Texas Militia
Wertheimer, Charles, Waller's Texas Cavalry Co A (Lavaca)
Wertheimer, William, 6th Texas Infantry Company B

■ TJHS

TAUBE COHEN

COPYRIGHT ©2006 - THE SAN ANGELO STANDARD-TIMES
PUBLICATION DATE JANUARY 20, 2006

SAN ANGELO, TX — Taube Cohen, born Taube Dzik in 1910 in Wolamin, Poland, died peacefully in San Angelo, Texas, on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006.

She survived a very difficult childhood, living in Europe during World War I, and was able to immigrate to the United States at the age of 10 with her mother and brother to join her father, who had worked for so long to bring them here.

Her family lived in Shreveport, La., where Taube quickly learned English and became an excellent student.

While Taube was in high school, the family moved to Waco, Texas. During the Depression, she worked to help support her family while attending school. After graduating from high school, she attended 4-C Business College studying "comptometry" so that she could get a job in College Station working for the government, computing how much farmers would get paid for not planting certain crops.

When World War II began, she went to work in San Antonio at Duncan Field (now Lackland Air Force Base), and friends there introduced her to a young man who was already established in business in San Angelo. She married George Cohen on June 28, 1942, and moved to San Angelo, where the couple raised three children, Marty, Barbara and

Jack, and ran two businesses, The Boston Store and the Hollywood Shoppe. After her husband passed away in 1970, Taube continued to run the Hollywood Shoppe until she retired at the age of 80.

She was active in Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue, re-establishing the Sunday school there during the time her children were young. She was also active in Hadassah, the American Business Women's Association, the Altrusa Club, the Eastern Star and other charitable organizations. She was an avid supporter and sponsor of the Miss Wool of America Contest during its heyday in San Angelo. In 1981, she was chosen by the local newspaper as one of the seven outstanding women of the city, representing the category of women in business.

She is survived by her three children and their spouses, Martin and Mimi Cohen, Barbara and Ben Rosenberg, and Jack and Debra Cohen; six grandchildren, Michael Cohen and wife Erin, Mindy Cohen Green and husband Harry, Melissa Cohen Hein and husband Kevin, Alex Cohen, Shawn Cohen, and Gena Rosenberg Welk and husband Mark.

Her three grandchildren were her greatest rewards: Zachary Welk, Danny Hein and Isaac Cohen, and another due soon. She is also survived by her sister, Esther

Lipinsky and husband Naman; and numerous nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews, a wonderful legacy for a woman who met many challenges in life and reaped its rewards.

The family wishes to thank all the caregivers who gave her excellent care in her last years, including Virginia Saldivar, Rebecca Juarez, Celinda Jio, Susan Balli, Nanette Mendoza and Angela Najera.

Graveside services were held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, in Rodfei Sholom Cemetery, 703 Division Ave., in San Antonio. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hadassah, to Congregation Beth Israel in San Angelo or to the charity of your choice.

■ TJHS

From TJHS Past President Barbara Rosenberg, daughter of Taube Cohen:

Please let our TJHS Family who knew my mother Taube Cohen when she was vigorous enough to attend meetings, that she passed away peacefully at the age of 95 on Wednesday, Jan. 18. She always looked forward to receiving her TJHS newsletter and read it "cover to cover," without her glasses, as recently as the last issue.

Love to our TJHS Family,
Barbara Rosenberg

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER GLADYS LEFF DIES AT 77 (1928 – 2006)

(DALLAS, TX) – Gladys Ruth Novack Leff passed away Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006. Born March 5, 1928, in Brooklyn, NY to the late Nathan Joseph and Ida Weinstein Novack, Gladys was a history professor at El Centro and Richland Colleges for 30 years. Some of her greatest pleasures were travel and spending time in Rockport. A devoted friend to many, her longtime friends will miss her presence in their lives.

Gladys is survived by two daughters, Nancy Leff and her husband, K.C. Lerner of Madison, Wisc., and Peggy Leff and husband, Bruce Smith of San Antonio; grandchildren Samara Leff-Lerner and Maxwell Joseph Leff-Lerner. A memorial service was held Monday, February 27, 2006 in Dallas' Temple Emanuel, Lefkowitz Chapel with Rabbi Gerald J. Klein officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations in Gladys' memory be made to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, North Dallas Shared Ministries, or Rabbi Klein's (Temple Emanuel) discretionary fund.

©Dallas Morning News 2/26/2006

LONGTIME TJHS MEMBER SAM HARELIK (1914 – 2006) DIES AT AGE 91

(WACO, TX) – Noted longtime local men's clothing-store owner and civic worker Sam Harelik passed away Saturday morning, Feb. 25, 2006 at his residence. Graveside services were held Sunday, Feb. 26 at Congregation Agudath Jacob Cemetery. Memorial services were at 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26, at Congregation Agudath Jacob, 4925 Hillcrest Dr. with Rabbi Gordon Fuller officiating.

Born to Russian immigrants, Haskell and Matley Harelik on Nov. 19, 1914 in Hamilton, Texas, Sam was the oldest of three brothers. He was president of his senior class and quarterback of his high school football team before graduating at age 16 from Hamilton High School and leaving to attend college at the University of Texas in Austin.

World War II interrupted his college career, and Sam served in the Navy in the South Pacific under Admiral Nimitz before returning to Texas at the war's end. He married Waco resident Margaret Rosen Harris on May 20, 1947, and the couple had twin sons, Leibel and Harry Harelik.

The couple moved to Waco in 1951 to open Harelik's Man's Shop. They remained in business for 33 years, surviving the 1953 Waco Tornado early in their business careers. Sam was a longtime member of the Founder's Lion's Club, the Karen Shrine and Congregation Agudath Jacob, where he was a longtime board member and past president. He was active in Downtown Waco, Inc. and a past President of the Jewish Federation of Waco. He was also a popular

reading tutor to students of Crestview Elementary School before his illness.

Sam Harelik is survived by his wife of 58 years, Margaret; sons Harry of Waco, Leibel and wife Debbie of Austin; grandchildren Adam and Noah Harelik of Houston, Alyssa Harelik Morrow and husband, Eric of Plano, Jarrod Harelik of Plano, Joshua Harelik of Diamond Bar, Calif; step-grandchildren, Sarah and Dakota Palmer of Austin; brother, Milton and wife, Dorothy of Hamilton; sister-in-law, Julia Ellis of Houston; brothers-in-law, Joe Rosen and wife, Sue of Ark., Arthur Rosen and wife, Ruby of San Marcos; many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Honorary pallbearers are the board and members of Congregation Agudath Jacob, the members of the Founder's Lions Club of Waco, and the members of Waco Karem Shrine. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to your favorite charity or Congregation Agudath Jacob Endowment Fund, 4925 Hillcrest Dr. Waco, TX 76710, Founder's Lions Club Park Trust, 1716 North 42nd, Waco, TX 76710, Shriner's Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive Tampa, Fla. 33607, the Sam and Margaret Harelik Endowed Scholarship Fund at McLennan Community College, 1400 College Drive, Waco, TX 76708, or to Prostate Cancer Resource Center, 2302 Euclid Ave., Austin, TX 78704.

©Waco Tribune-Herald 2/26/2006

At Press Time: The Texas Jewish Historical Society is saddened to report the loss of member Thelma Sheff Lipsitz, who passed away in Waco on Sunday, March 26, 2006.

A CUSTODIAN OF MEMORIES

By Melody Amsel-Arieli

©Fast Forward, November 18, 2005

One day, to enhance his act, a peg-legged tightrope walker, balanced a small iron cooking-stove on his back. During one ill-fated performance, the high wire snapped and the performer fell to the ground, mortally wounded. A priest administered the last rites, then leaned down to catch the man's dying words. The acrobat gasped, "But I'm Jewish". No joke. He was. And he is buried in the Temple Beth-El Hebrew Cemetery in Corsicana, Texas, under the name Rope Walker. Today, more than one hundred years later, his marble tombstone, though weathered and askew, is in good hands. Babbette Samuels, one of the five remaining Jews left in town, is the Hebrew Cemetery's self-appointed caretaker.

All her life Samuels has lived in Corsicana, famed for its Original DeLuxe Fruitcake. She has seen the area's Jewish community blossom after the arrival of the railroad and then with the drilling of the first oil well west of the Mississippi. Over the years, she also has seen the community fade away – like many others scattered across the South – as youngsters left for greener metropolitan pastures and older folks passed on.

In 1982, when just a handful of Beth-El families remained – barely enough for a minyan – the community decided to sell the Synagogue, which had fallen into disrepair. Much to the people's dismay, they found there were no takers. The renovations would be too costly; demolition seemed the only answer. Fortunately, Texas Navarro County Historical Society recognized the Synagogue's architectural and historical value and saved it from the wrecking ball. Through the historical society's efforts, Temple Beth-El, a real East Texas eye-catcher with its tin onion-domed towers and glowing Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass windows, is today a Texas Historical Marker. As one of the few remaining examples of Moorish Revival architecture in the Southwest and as a tribute to immigrant Jews' pioneering spirit, Beth-El is now insured preservation for future generations.

Not so for Hebrew Cemetery, Corsicana's only still-growing Jewish institution. Over the course of the one hundred years, tombstones have cracked and fallen over, inscriptions have faded, documentation has grown scant and caretakers have passed on.

Now it has fallen to Samuels, who is pushing eighty, to make order out of the chaos – a task she finds time for between working out, gardening, working on her computer and serving on a variety of civic committees.

With the approval of the cemetery's board of directors, Samuels devotes many a scorching Texas afternoon to collecting, verifying and re-verifying the names and the birth - and - death dates of the deceased.

With an eye toward future generations, and a nod to her own mortality, she plans to entrust the updated cemetery records to such Jewish repositories as the Texas Jewish Historical Society, the WE site www.jewishgen.org; and the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, located in Jackson, MS for safekeeping. She will not rest until her task is complete.

But Samuels' devotion to the cemetery goes well beyond simple record-keeping. She kindly leaves pebbles at the graves of those whose families seldom visit. She visits friends' tombs. She cares for the graves of Irvin, her husband of fifty-three years, and for that of their daughter, Ermalyn, taken at an early age. Although a professional maintenance service oversees the peaceful rolling grounds, Samuels spends several afternoons a week doing rounds with a small rake and a container of insecticide.

When there are no longer any Jews in Corsicana, a local bank will handle the cemetery's finances, investments and maintenance. Ever vigilant, Samuels has come up with a contingency plan in the event that the bank doesn't make good. "If the bank fails to keep our grounds beautiful enough to put on the cover of Better Homes and Gardens, I will come back to haunt them," she has promised.

■ TJHS

Melody Amsel-Arieli, a professional flutist, is the author of "Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov" (Avotaynu, 2002). Her cousin, Pauline Amsel, murdered in 1914 at age 14 in Durant, Okla., is buried in Corsicana, Texas' Hebrew Cemetery.

TEXAS CEMETERY PROJECT

Gertrude and Don Teter

About 20 years ago a committee was named to research and identify small, abandoned Jewish cemeteries in Texas. Many Jewish cemeteries were located, and locations that did not have Jewish cemeteries were identified.

The project was put on hold for about five years. When we were asked to chair the committee to continue this project, we decided to enlarge the scope and attempt to include all Jewish burials in Texas. Six years of documenting all the burials we could locate resulted in the book "Texas Jewish Burials".

The book contains 34,000 listings including Jewish cemeteries and other cemeteries with known Jewish burials. Many researchers and genealogists throughout the country have used "Texas Jewish Burials" as an important resource.

It is time to consider updating the book. We would like to recommend completion by 2007, as that is the book's 10th anniversary. Typos, marker recordings and omissions need to be corrected, and many burials that have occurred since the book was published need to be documented. Texas Jewish Burials is arranged alphabetically by surname. A printout for each cemetery is also available.

It is our suggestion that the original database be updated and each cemetery be re-documented with the necessary changes and additions. We will be glad to advise, consult and furnish the current database.

Note: Greg Meyer has graciously offered to lead the next phase of the project to update "Texas Jewish Burials." He has converted the database into Microsoft Access, and soon will begin contacting individuals to request updates to the existing information.

Your help is welcome and will be greatly appreciated! Individuals who help with the project will be provided either an Excel spreadsheet or printout to complete and return. For information, contact Greg Meyer at gmeyer1@satx.rr.com.

IN SEARCH OF THE CANARY ISLANDS' HISTORICAL INQUISITION RECORDS

Roger L. Martinez is conducting dissertation research on a Sephardic Jewish and converso family in Spain, Portugal, England and the Americas. Specifically, he is investigating the 500-year lineage of the Spanish Carvajal Family from 1200 to 1700.

A doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of Texas at Austin, Martinez is requesting help in obtaining Inquisition Records – critical historical manuscripts – from the Canary Islands. He believes the manuscripts are in the hands of a private collector or institution, and asks anyone who has information about them to please contact him at roger.martinez@mail.utexas.edu, call 512-471-3166, or send a fax to him at 512-475-7222.

EARLY ZIONISM IN TEXAS

I am working on an essay about early Zionism in Texas, and have come across a 1934 project entitled "Nachlath Texas" in which the Texas Zionist Association planned to raise money to purchase 1000 dunams of land in the Upper Galilee region of Palestine for a Jewish settlement named after the Lone Star State.

Although Texas Zionists were to receive first priority for settlement, I think it was primarily intended for European Jewish refugees. By 1938, they had raised \$28,000 and entered into a formal agreement with the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael.

I have not been able to find out what happened to this project. I have never heard of an Israeli town named after Texas. Does anyone know of this project, or where I might be able to find out what happened to it? Was this part of a larger project to establish such colonies in Palestine in the 1930's? Is there a larger context that I'm missing?

Thanks for your help.

Stuart Rockoff, Ph.D
 Director, History Department
 Goldring / Woldenberg Institute of
 Southern Jewish Life
 P.O. Box 16528
 Jackson, MS 39236-0528
 Phone 601-362-6357
 Fax 601-366-6293

DO YOU KNOW A JEWISH TEXAN WHO SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR?

By Hollace Weiner

Do you know of someone Jewish, perhaps a relative, who fought in the Civil War?

One hundred years ago, a Jewish historian attempted to list all Jewish Texans who served in the Civil War. He named 103 soldiers. We believe there were at least 100 more.

Gary Whitfield, a Fort Worth historian, is working to document every Jewish Texan who fought in the Civil War. To date, he has documented nearly 50 additional soldiers, bringing the current total to approximately 150.

Please review the revised list included on the following pages. If you know of someone who should be added to this list of Jews who served, please contact Gary at gary1408@charter.net

This list is being considered for inclusion in a new Texas Jewish history book being underwritten by the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Thank you for your assistance.

Shalom,
Hollace Weiner

THE LIST OF JEWISH TEXANS WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR CONTINUES TO GROW

Gary Whitfield continues documenting names of Jewish Civil War Veterans he has found during his recent research. These individuals were not included in the original, century-old list. The new names are in regular typeface below. Names in ALL CAPS are on the list compiled in 1895. If you know of a Jewish Civil War Veteran whose name is not on this list, please contact Mr. Whitfield at gary14008@charter.net.

Alexander, Seelig -Texas CSA
ALEXANDER, A.S. CAPT
ANGEL, A.
ASH, HENRY
AUERBACH, DR. J.
AUERBACH, E.
BACHARACH, WOLF
Baum, Eli - McCord's Frontier Regt. Texas State Troops
BENEDICT, JACOB
Berliner, Bero B. Texas Militia Tarrant County...later Waller's Texas Cav
BILLIG, ISAAC
Bock, Isidore 3rd Texas Cavalry, State Troops Company B
BUCK, ROBERT Cohn, Isaac Griffin's Texas Infantry Company F
COBMAN, LOUIS
COHEN, HENRY
COHEN, S.
COLEMAN, LOUIS
COLEMAN, MEYER
CRAMER, A. LT.
CRAMER, JOSEPH
DANIELS, J.
DANNENBAUM, JOSEPH
DAVIDBURG, DAVID D.
DAVIDSON, DAVID H.
DAVIDSON, HENRY
DEUTSCH, SOLOMON
DEUTSCH, S.
Doppelmayer, Daniel Texas CSA (from Marshall)
DREYFUS, CHARLES
DREYFUS, SAMUEL
ELSASSER, I.
Ephraim, Jacob, Enlisted near Hempstead
Farber, Arnold 19th Texas Inf Co. D
Finkelstein, Abe - Served as Bugler then Flag Bearer
FISCHEL, LEON
FOX, A.
FOX, ALLEN
Frank, Jacob 1st Texas Infantry L.C. Harby's son-in-law
FRANK, L.
FRANK, J.W.
Frederick(s), William Calvin - 7th Texas Inf Co. Ewife said he served in 4th Texas Inf.
FRIEDBERGER, G
FRIEDBERGER, GABRIEL

Texas Jewish Civil War Vets. cont. page 5

FRIEDBERGER, SAMUEL
FRIEDLANDER, N.
Gabert, Simon - (union) 4th Missouri Cav (Freemont's Hussars)
GANS, LEON
Gans, Morris - Texas Militia Williamson County Bowies
GANS, SAMUEL
GLASER, WOLF
GOETZ, JULIUS
GOLDSTICKER, J.
Half, Solomon Waul's Legion Co. B
Halfin, Henry - Texas Militia 24th Bdge Coastal Defense
Halfin, Sol - Texas Militia, Coastal Defense 24th Bdge (Texas State Troops)
Harby, Harry J. 8th Texas Field Battery
HARBY, HENRY J.
Harby, J.D. 8th Texas Field Battery & Light Artillery
HELLER, LOUIS
HIEF, CHARLES
HINES, A.
HIRSCHBERG, J.
HIRSCHFIELD, H.
HOLDSTEIN, ISIDORE
HYAMS, S.
Jacobs, James M. 18th Texas Inf. Co. D
JACOBY, MAX
Kahn, E. 3rd Texas Cav Co A
Kahn, Lion (brother of E. Kahn above) was a Texan who served in the Union forces.
Karpeles, Emil
KAUFMAN, EDWARD
KAUFMAN, C.
KAUFMAN, K.
Keller, Theodore Colonel
KEMPNER, H.
Klopman, L.
Kohlman, M.
Kokemot, David Levi - Terry's Texas Rangers, Sgt. Major
Kopperl, Moritz 1st Texas State Troop Co B
Kramer, Joseph 1st Texas Inf. (Company still under research)
Lang (or Long) Samuel 1st Texas Heavy Artillery Co C
Levy, M.C. 14th Texas Field Battery
Leavitt, Gus 18th Texas Inf (Butcher)
Lichtenstein, Moritz, Sibley's Brigade
Lachman, E
LASKER, MORRIS
Lazarus, B.
Lazazrus, S.S.
Leave, R.B.
LEOPOLD. W.

LEVISON, A.
LEVISON, PAUL
Levy, Robert
LEVY, ISAAC
Lewis, Isaac
London, Max 6th Texas Inf. Co A
MAAS, LOUIS
Maas, Max - 4th Texas Inf. Bn (Oswald's) Co. B, 2nd Lt.
Marx, Samuel Texas State Troops Cavalry 24th Bdge Co. B
MAYER, LEO E.
Mayer, Samuel CSA Officer in Texas Artillery, Major
MELASKI, J.
MEYER, JOSEPH
Meyer, Levy 24th Bdge Texas State Troops; Actually a Blockade Runner
MICHEL, HENRY
MORRIS, LEHMAN SGT.
Nussbaum, J. Cpt W. H. Duke's Volunteers (Jefferson, Tx)
Oppenheim, Julius - Bauvinghauser's Reserve Corp of Texas
OPPENHEIMER, A.
OPPENHEIMER, BENJAMIN
OPPENHEIMER, D.
OPPENHEIMER, J.
OPPENHEIMER, S.
PEPPER, L.S.
PEPPER, SAMUEL
PICKARD, H.
Pinski, Mark Cpt W.H. Duke's Volunteers (Jefferson, Tx)
POHALSKI, G.D.
POHALSKI, P.
RICH, LOUIS M.
Rose, Abraham (of Waxahachie) Texas CSA
ROSENFELD, ALEXANDER
ROSENFELD, HENRY
ROSENFELD, MICHAEL
SAMPSON, EDWARD J.
Samuels, Jacob Waller's Texas Cav Co F
SAMUSH, J.
Sanger, Isaac McCord's Frontier Regt. Texas State Troops
Sanger, Lehman 21st Texas Inf. Co A
Senechal, Alexander 2nd Texas Infantry Co. B
SHOWLSKI, CHARLES
SIEGEL, JOSEPH
SILBERBERG, GEORGE
Simon, Alexander 15th Texas Cavalry, Corporal
SOLOMON, JOSEPH A. FLEISCHEL, CAPTAIN
Stein, Henry Waul's Legion Co C Otto Nathusius Commanding

**SALADO SITE OF
WINTER 2006
QUARTERLY WEEKEND &
BOARD MEETING**

Submitted by Jan Siegel Hart, Chair

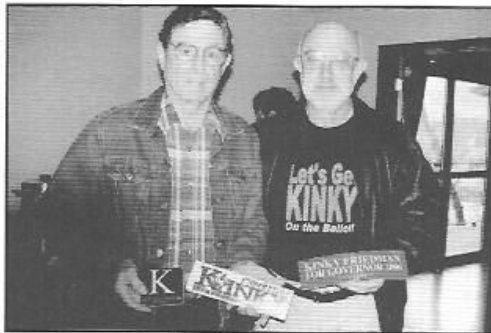
A total of 27 members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society attended the Winter 2006 Quarterly Weekend & Board Meeting in Salado, Texas the weekend of January 22, 2006.

On Saturday, the group enjoyed sight-seeing and shopping in the quaint town. That evening they enjoyed dinner at Stagecoach Inn.

Invited guests included Rabbi and Mrs. Moti Rotem of Waco's Temple Rodef Sholom. Rabbi Rotem shared his thoughts on living in Israel, Israeli politics, and most importantly, Ariel Sharon's influence and how his illness may affect Israeli politics.

Sunday morning began with breakfast followed by the Quarterly Board meeting. Hollace Weiner reported on the Lone Stars of David book project. TJHS Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chairman Charles B. Hart submitted proposed nominations for the new Board of Trustees and Officers, to be voted on at the 27th Annual Gathering in Houston on April 30, 2006.

■ TJHS



Charles & Jack get Kinky!



◀ Hollace Weiner, co-editor of the Lone Stars of David book project gives a presentation on the project at the Winter Quarterly Board meeting in Salado.



Winter 2006 Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting at the Stagecoach Inn, Salado, Texas



THE HISTORIC STAGE- ▶
COACH INN, our host hotel holds the Reader's Choice "Best Restaurant" Award. The Stagecoach Inn dining room has won The Taste of Texas Award for its delicious roast prime rib.





Rossenwasser & Levy - Ballinger, 1911

Abilene . . . Oh, Abilene ! TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2006
Quarterly Weekend & Board Meeting
Friday thru Sunday • October 20 – 22



MGM Eleganté Hotel
\$99 per night

4250 Ridgemont Drive • Abilene, Texas
Toll-free 1-888-897-9644 • Phone 325-698-1234

Join your fellow TJHS members in what promises to be a fun, action-packed October weekend in Abilene! The recently remodeled MGM Elegante Hotel features cooked-to-order breakfasts, nightly beverage service, airport shuttle service, an indoor pool, suites, and selected rooms with kitchenettes.

Make hotel reservations before October 1, 2006.
Registration forms will be included in the
Summer 2006 News Magazine

Chairwoman Ruth Heidenheimer, Cisco, Texas

Sweetwater, cont. from page 12

City of Sweetwater celebrate 125 years, and the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Greg Wortham, organizer of the Jim Wortham Memorial Fund Concert Series and brother of the late Jim Wortham, is excited to see the event come together and says he believes the Lisa Loeb concert will be a very special time for Sweetwater and Nolan County residents who will see history come full circle. It will also be a great opportunity to be entertained by a talented, known artist.

Information for this article was obtained from "Sweet and Sour," written by Fanny Loeb, an interview with Pioneer Museum Curator Franzas Cupp, and information printed in the Sweetwater Reporter and on Lisa Loeb's Web site, lisaloeb.com.

■ TJHS



**TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Proposed Slate of Officers**

2006-2007

PRESIDENT	Vickie Vogel	La Grange
VICE PRESIDENT	Mitzi Milstein	Longview
VICE PRESIDENT	Beverly Beck Trachtenberg	Houston
VICE PRESIDENT	(To be announced)	TBA
RECORDING SECRETARY	(To be announced)	TBA
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Jan Siegel Hart	Temple
TREASURER	Ben Pfeffer	Houston
HISTORIAN	Sally Drayer	Dallas
ARCHIVIST	Ima Joy Gandler	Waco
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Barry Green	Tyler

**Proposed Slate - Board of Trustees
2006-2008**

NAME	CITY	NAME	CITY
Dave Bach	Abilene	Allen Mondell	Dallas
Dorothy Harelik	Hamilton	John Perel	Houston
Ed Katten	Waco	Sheila Rosenfield	Austin
Howard Lackman	Arlington	Blanche Sheiness	Houston
Alan Livingston	Houston	Davie Lou Solka	Corpus Christi
Selma Mantel	Houston	Max Stool	San Antonio
Rusty Milstein	Longview	David Vogel	La Grange

To be voted on at the 27th Annual Meeting, Sunday, April 30, 2006

**Continuing Board Members
2006-2007**

NAME	CITY	NAME	CITY
Elaine Albin	Rockport	Sherman Kusin	Austin
Leon Brachman	Fort Worth	Barbara Lack	Victoria
Leah Burstein	San Antonio	Marvin Leshin	Corpus Christi
Doris Epstein	Laredo	Yetta Leshin	Corpus Christi
Robert Gindler	Sugar Land	Keith Rosen	Bellaire
Winston Heidenheimer	Cisco	Mervin Rosenbaum	Baytown
David Hoffman	Evant	Debra L. Weingarten	San Antonio
Marilyn Jorrie	Boulder, CO		

Proposed Changes To By-Laws – April 30, 2006

EXISTING – Article IV. B. Board of Trustees

- a) Number – The Board of Trustees shall consist of the officers as set forth above, all living Past Presidents of the Society, and forty (40) members of the Society.
- b) Election Term – One-half, or twenty (20) of the Trustees elected by the Society shall be elected each year to serve for a term of two (2) years...term.

PROPOSED – Board of Trustees

- a) Number – The Board of Trustees shall consist of the officers as set forth above, all living Past Presidents of the Society, and thirty (30) members of the Society.
- b) Election Term – one-half, or fifteen (15) of the Trustees elected by the Society shall be elected each year to serve for a term of two (2) years.

PROS

1. In some cases the elected Trustees do not attend the Board meetings or the Gathering during the year, even though the By-Laws require they attend one meeting per year.
2. Due to the membership's aging population, it is very difficult to recruit willing members for election to (and participation) the Board of Trustees.
3. Even with a willing Nominating Committee, it has been a struggle to find 20 members willing to be elected to the Board of Trustees each year.
4. Having 40 members on the Board requires a large number for a quorum, which often makes it difficult to enact business at Quarterly Board Meetings.

This proposed change will NOT affect the ongoing business affairs of the Society. To be approved, this proposal must be considered in accordance with Article XIV of the By-Laws.

CONS

1. Geographic diversity may be lost with fewer members.
2. The more members who have a role and actively participate, the better it is for the Society.
3. Board members are required to attend only one Board Meeting per year; therefore, it will become more difficult to achieve a quorum to conduct business.
4. If meetings regularly fail to reach a quorum, it appears likely that future meetings will also fail to reach a quorum, as members become discouraged from attending meetings for the time and money spent on travel and accommodations will not be warranted due to lack of a quorum.
5. Overall attendance at Board Meetings will be affected, as spouses and/or other family members and friends often attend Quarterly Weekends with members of the Board.
6. The pool for selecting officers will diminish, as officers are often chosen from active board members.
7. With 800+ members in TJHS, surely 40 (5% of the membership) are willing to serve on the board.
8. TJHS represents wide and diverse backgrounds, interests and experiences. The current number of Board members is more likely to be representative of the overall membership.
9. The current system has worked well for many years.
10. Before the By-Laws are changed, more time is needed to study the impact of reducing the number of Board members.

If this amendment passes at the Annual Meeting, the amendment will be effective immediately.

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL

Friday ~ Sunday, April 28 ~ April 30, 2006

27 Annual Gathering Schedule In Brief

Friday, April 28, 2006

- 12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Check-in and Registration in Lobby of Marriott Hotel at the Galleria
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. TJHS Board of Directors Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Hospitality Suite Open**
- 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Dinner, Marriott Hotel Starlight Room on Balcony.
Candle-lighting, Kiddush & Hamotzi led by Sharon Colbert.

Saturday, April 29, 2006

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Shabbat Service with Kaddish, conducted by David Bach
- 8:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m. "The Russian Orphan Who Became A Success" - Philip Rich
- 10:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. "That's Not the Way My Mama Cooked It!"
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Bus to Houston Holocaust Museum
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tour of Houston Holocaust Museum
- 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Holocaust Survivors in Houston
- 4:00 p.m. Bus returns to Marriott Hotel.
Relax, visit with friends or shop!
- 3:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. **Hospitality Suite Open**
- 7:00 p.m. 27th Annual Gathering Banquet

Sunday, April 30, 2006

- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 27th Annual General Meeting including the Election of Officers & Board of Directors, consideration of By-Laws amendments and other business.

The 27th Annual Gathering Weekend is adjourned.

GATHERING PROMISES SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The 27th Annual Gathering of the Texas Jewish Historical Society will be held at the Marriott Hotel Houston West Loop at Loop 610 and San Felipe near the Galleria on Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30, 2006.

The Marriott Hotel is offering TJHS members a special \$89 rate (plus tax) and FREE garage parking (regularly \$8/day). Additionally, TJHS members who would like to arrive prior to Friday or stay beyond April 28 may request additional hotel nights at the same rate. Rooms offered on availability. Call toll-free 1-800-613-3982 or local 713-960-0111.

Gathering registration fee is \$140 per person.

Monday, April 10, 2006 is the deadline to reserve your hotel room and receive a discount. Monday, April 17th is the deadline to register for the Annual Gathering.

■ TJHS

HISTORY COMES FULL CIRCLE IN SWEETWATER

By Kimberly Gray, Special to the ©Sweetwater Reporter
Reprinted with permission

Around the time of the birth of Nolan County and its county seat, Sweetwater, a family began to plant roots here and was part of building Sweetwater into what it would become. The family was the Levys, and later, the Loeb's, who ran the Levy Brothers Department Store. The store stayed in business for decades and members of the family became successful in their own right.

One member of the Loeb family, Lisa Loeb, will be returning to Sweetwater for a concert at the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium the evening of April 1. Lisa Loeb is a well-known pop singer and actress. She is best known for her hit, "Stay," which launched her career 10 years ago.

She made history when, as an unsigned artist, she made the charts with that particular single. The single also became part of the soundtrack for the film, "Reality Bite." She also had a show on the Food Network and starred opposite Geoffrey Rush in the 1999 feature-film, "On Haunted Hill." She is now completing work on a new television series on E! Network and will soon release a new CD.

To the people who knew some of Loeb's family, she is better known for her family connections and what the



Irving Loeb circa 1930's

family has meant to Sweetwater all these years.

It all began with Abe Levy and his father and grandfather. His last name was originally Labau, but was changed to Levy to sound more "American." His ancestors had come from France to Russia during the French Revolution.

Levy's grandfather chose to make his move to America after his father spent time in a Siberian prison, not for a crime he did not commit, but for aiding in the escape of a cousin who attacked some guards in defense of



Mr. and Mrs. Irving Loeb – Twenty-fifth Wedding Anniversary – December 20, 1956

others. In fact, Levy's grandfather died in that prison. This made his father very angry at not only Russia but at Europe in general – angry enough to move to America. After spending six months in the United States, he sent for his son, Abe.

Immediately Abe was put to work helping in his father's produce business on the East coast. Later, his father made his way to Seguin, Texas, and Abe traveled the Catskills as a successful traveling salesman of undergarments. At one time during his career, he was held up by bandits and all his money was taken.



Levy's Sweetwater 1928

Together he and his father made enough money to send for the rest of the family, however Abe's mother died before she made her way to America.

Eventually Abe also made his way to Texas. He had visited before but did not like it much then. When he returned with his younger brother, Ike, he decided to sell more than underwear and take nice clothing and other goods to people in the very rural areas who were not used to being able to purchase such goods. His idea made him even more successful.

On one of his trips through Seguin, Abe met his wife who was sweeping the front steps of a general store. That is when Abe decided he had better find a place to settle down, and he ventured to West Texas where he chose Ballinger his home. They then had three girls, Fanny Hattie and Helen. Later, around 1909, the family settled in Sweetwater, living at 501 East Broadway. Abe and Ike soon developed their own business, partnership, and the Levy Brothers Department Store was born.

The business started in the 100 block of Broadway. Then, they moved the business to a vacant lot

Sweetwater, cont. page 12

on the corner of Broadway and Oak, where the store remained the family's business until 1968. Azteca now sits where that store was. The store sold to the Hixon family after 1968. They operated it until the early 1980's when they sold it to the Minters who operated it for two more years under the name of Levy Brothers. Ike continued to live with his brother's family. When Fanny was 10-years-old, however, their mother died of a heart condition. Abe was left to raise three young girls, with his brother's help.

He later met his second wife, Freda, who also had a little girl, adding two more females to the mix. She got very involved in the family business as well.

Fanny and her sister grew up surrounded by her father's and uncle's business associates, making trips to the big cities to buy merchandise with their step-mother. Fanny and her husband, Irving Loeb, eventually took over operating the business. Loeb quit his job as an Electrical Engineer for Texas Electric.

Fanny and Irving had three children, Larry, Ann and Betty. They lost Larry when he was just nine-years-old. Ann was the only one from her generation to take part in the family business. She worked as a buyer for the women's ready-to-wear department. She then moved to Dallas and became a buyer for Neiman Marcus.

Ann eventually married David Sikora, who became a doctor. She became a known philanthropist in Dallas. Her husband was featured in the *Dallas Morning News* in May 2005 for having retired from practicing medicine at age 81,

although he continues to volunteer at local clinics.

Irving's younger brother, Sam eventually moved to Sweetwater, where he raised his family. The two were very close since their father passed away when Sam was just four-years-old. In fact, Fanny discusses at length in her book, "Sweet and Sour" just how much Irving adored his little brother, always helping him any way he could and agreeing to go into any venture Sam thought up. In fact, an entire chapter of her book is written about Sam.



Dr. Sam A. Loeb

They had an uncle, Peter, who helped their mother raise them after the death of their father. Sam later named one of his sons Peter. He and his wife, Daisy had two other children, Jane and Robby. Sam became a doctor and spent some time in the Army during World War II. However, he raised his children in Sweetwater.

Peter, also a doctor, lives in Dallas. Lisa, who was born and raised in Dallas, is his daughter.

The Grammy Nominee's April 1st concert is part of the 2006 Jim Wortham Memorial Fund Concert

Series. The concert series began in 2004 in remembrance of Wortham, who dedicated many years to the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium



Fanny Levy Loeb circa 1925

and to bringing the arts to Sweetwater. The concert will be a homecoming of sorts for Lisa, as she returns to her father's and grandfather's home.

Lisa comes from a family of successful, ambitious, hard-working people – a Jewish immigrant family who made their way to the United States for something better. That something better came, and Loeb continues to live as a shining example of what can come of a wish for something better.

Loeb's Sweetwater concert may also become a reunion, as many members of her family will be invited to her concert that will take place soon after the release of her newest CD and after being part of a television show.

Her concert will also be a historical moment in Sweetwater. Loeb represents not only a family that found great opportunities in this small West Texas town, but that represents the history of Sweetwater and Nolan County. This concert comes at a special time as the county and the

Sweetwater, cont. page 15

**THE TEXAS JEWISH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*Summer 2006 Quarterly
Weekend and Board
Meeting*



*July 15-16, 2006
Austin, Texas*

**Austin Airport Hilton
9515 New Airport Dr • Austin, TX**

**TJHS Special Room Rate
\$79 Single • \$89 Double
Phone 512-385-6767**

Hotel Reservation Deadline June 23rd

**Complimentary Breakfast Buffet
Free Airport Shuttle • Free Parking**

**Visit the
Texas Jewish Historical Society
online at
www.txjhs.org**

**SUMMER 2006
QUARTERLY WEEKEND & BOARD MEETING
AUSTIN, TEXAS, JULY 15 - 16, 2006**

Hotel reservations for the Texas Jewish Historical Society's Summer 2006 Weekend and Board Meeting July 15-16, 2006 must be made by June 23, with meeting registration information and payment due by June 30, 2006.

The meeting will be at the Austin Airport Hilton Hotel, 9515 New Airport Drive, phone 512.385.6767.

Special TJHS hotel rates are \$79 plus tax for a single and \$89 plus tax for a double. Saturday evening will feature a delightful dinner with guest speaker Reuben Kogut delivering a talk on "Jews involved in the Prohibition."

See you in Austin on July 15!

REGISTRATION FORM
**Summer 2006 Quarterly
Weekend & Board Meeting**
July 15-16, 2006 - Austin, Texas

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cell () _____

Email () _____

Registration is \$50 per person and includes
Saturday dinner & Sunday breakfast buffet.
Saturday dinner - select one entrée per person:
#__ Chicken or #__ Vegetarian
Number attending __ X \$50 = \$ __ (enclosed)

Complete form and check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, and mail to Sheila Rosenfield, 6405 Rusty Ridge, Austin, TX 78731. For information call Sheila at 512.467.9502.

To all who have served
and all who are just
beginning the journey...
Thank you for your time,
commitment and
dedication to the
Texas Jewish
Historical Society.

TJHS CURRENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2005-2006

President	Marvin Rich	Houston
Vice President	Mitzi Milstein	Longview
Vice President	Beverly Beck Tractenberg	Houston
Vice President	Jan Siegel Hart	Temple
Recording Secretary	Sherry Zander	Dallas
Corresponding Secretary	Selma Mantel	Houston
Treasurer	Ben Pfeffer	Houston
Historian	Blanche Sheiness	Historian
Archivist	Ima Joy Gandler	Waco
Parliamentarian	Barry Green	Tyler

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAST PRESIDENTS

1980-1982	Rabbi James Kessler	Galveston
1982-1984	*Frances Kallison	San Antonio
1984-1986	Lionel Schooler	Houston
1986	*Ed Lax	Dallas
1986-1989	Ginger Jacobs	Dallas
1989-1991	Milton Smith	Austin
1991-1993	Faye Brachman	Fort Worth
1993-1995	Don Teter	Baytown
1995-1998	Barbara Rosenberg	Sugar Land
1998-2000	Helen Wilk	Corpus Christi
2000-2002	Jack Gerrick	Fort Worth
2002-2004	Charles B. Hart	Temple

*deceased

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Texas Jewish Historical Society extends a hearty welcome to the following members who have joined since January 2006. Please clip and add this to your directory.

Seymour & Norma Gay Beitscher
41 Cypress Point
Abilene, TX 79606
Phone: 315-692-1561
Email: granpa71TX@aol.com

Temple Mizpah
PO Box 1283
Abilene, TX 79604
Phone: 325-672-8225

Hyman & Lynn Penn
2107 Forest Mountain Court
Kingwood, TX 77345

Sheila & Sam Rosenfield
Austin, TX
Add email address:
sheilasjr@yahoo.com

Iris Rubin (Simon)
No. 2 Elmcourt
San Antonio, TX 78209
Phone: 210-826-2295

Help Us *Get it Write!* Review your Texas Jewish Historical Society 2004-2006 Member Directory and make changes, additions and corrections to your existing information using the Membership & Information Update Form (on back cover of this news magazine.)

The Directory will soon be reprinted. It is printed during even-numbered years only. After the 2006 printing, the directory will not be reprinted until 2008.

Please check spelling and accuracy of your name(s), maiden name, address, home phone, mobile phone, fax number, all area codes, email address and email service-provider.

SOCIETY'S 27th ANNUAL GATHERING

Registration Deadline is Monday, April 17th

AND THE REST IS HISTORY...

In 1980, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler of Galveston called for the creation of a historical society to preserve the Texas Jewish experience.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society held its first gathering in San Antonio. One thousand family members strong and growing, the Society will gather in Houston April 28 - 30, 2006 to celebrate 27 years of exciting research, discovery and friendships rooted in a common passion-preserving Texas Jewish history.

The 27th Annual Gathering will feature interesting speakers recognized for their knowledge of Texas Jewish history, a tour of the Houston Holocaust Museum and opportunities to socialize with friends, old and new. Attendees will enjoy Shabbat dinner with candle-lighting, Kiddush and Hamotzi led by Sharon Colbert, Saturday evening's Annual Banquet, and the 27th Annual Meeting including the election of a new Board of Directors and Officers.

All who attend are certain to have an enjoyable, unforgettable weekend in Houston!

■ TJHS

Registration Form
The Texas Jewish Historical Society's
The 27th Annual Gathering
April 28 - 30, 2006 Houston, Texas

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone: () _____

Cell: () _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____ x \$140 = \$ _____

Number requesting Vegetarian Meals _____

Complete this form and mail it with your check for \$140 per person to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, c/o Beverly Beck Trachtenberg, 5517 Shadow Crest, Houston, TX 77096. **Registration deadline is April 17, 2006. Hotel reservation deadline is April 10, 2006.**

✂ Clip and mail with your check by April 17th ✂

Reserve Your Hotel Room Today!

Marriott Hotel Houston West Loop

Loop 610 and San Felipe near the Galleria

\$89 per night (plus tax)

Hotel Reservation Deadline

Monday, April 10, 2006

Toll-free direct 1-800-613-3982

In Houston 713-960-0111

FREE Garage Parking (regularly \$8 per night)

Texas Jewish Historical Society

P.O. Box 10193
Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership & Information Update Form

Please PRINT. Complete each section below. Clip out form and mail with your check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. If updating membership information check 2nd box below and complete only the member contact information.

- YES!** Count me in! My dues payment is enclosed.
- My Membership is current, however my information is not. Please see my updated information below.

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES)

- New Member
- Renewing Member
- Gift Membership (from any category below)
- Updated Information *only*

HONORING SOMEONE WITH THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP?

Your Name: _____
Occasion: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 36 – Annual Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 – Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 – Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 – Supporting Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 – Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1,000 – Patron |

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Member's Name (s) _____
Spouse _____ Maiden Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____ Fax _____
Email Address _____ Website _____

Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.